

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8929

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4650

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS, CB

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS OF INDOCHINA

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR GARVEY HAD A TALK EARLY THIS WEEK WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN WHO HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EAST ASIA. GARVEY FELT THAT FIRYUBIN WAS QUITE DEFENSIVE ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION, ESPECIALLY ON CAMBODIA. FIRYUBIN DID DENY THAT SOVIET POLICY WAS AMBIGUOUS IN INDOCHINA, SAYING THAT THE USSR IS COMMITTED BY THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES."

2. GARVEY FELT THAT FIRYUBIN MIGHT HAVE A LINGERING FEAR THAT THE U.S. MIGHT INTERVENE IN CAMBODIA. FIRYUBIN SAID, WITHOUT ANY MENTION OF THE U.S., THAT AIR ACTION WOULD NOT SAVE THE SITUATION AND THAT ONLY THE INTRODUCTION OF GROUND FORCES, WHICH WOULD BE ENGAGED FOR A LONG TIME, COULD HAVE AN EFFECT. FIRYUBIN SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD.

3. FIRYUBIN SAID THAT THE KHMER PEOPLE MUST SETTLE THEIR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET HAD NEVER DECLARED THEIR NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT AND HAD NEVER RECOGNIZED LON NOL (THUS IGNORING THE ANOMALY OF THE TWO EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS). ON SIHANOUK, CONFIDENTIAL

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SIRYUBIN'S STATEMENT WAS CURIOUS: HE SAID THAT PERHAPS

SIHANOUK WOULD HAVE A ""POLITICAL STATION" IN CAMBODIA WHEN THE PATRIOTIC FORCES TAKE OVER.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE GKR EMBASSY THAT THEY WILL NOW LEAVE APRIL 5 FOR PARIS --SOMWHAT EARLIER THAN WE HAD BEEN TOLD EARLY THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO VIMONT, THE SOVIETS HAD WANTED THE GKR PEOPLE OUT BY APRIL 3. VIMONT DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE MFA HAD PRESSED FOR THEIR EARLY DEPARTURE OR WHETHER THE PRESSURE HAD COME FROM A LOWER LEVEL. WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION.
STOESSEL

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